

my attitude about things, and here's my attitude: The only way we can lose in Iraq is if we lose our nerve. And I'm not losing my nerve, and I know that the United States Marine Corps will not lose their nerve, either.

Yesterday was an important day, but I recognize we still have more work to do. Democracy in Iraq will be a major blow for the terrorists who want to do us harm. Democracy in Iraq will deny them safe haven. Democracy in Iraq will set a powerful example for people in a part of the world who are desperate for freedom.

It is such an honor to be here with the mighty United States Marine Corps and their families. May God bless you all, and

may God continue to bless our country. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:34 p.m. in the Mess Hall at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center. In his remarks, he referred to Sgt. Maj. James M. Ricker, USMC, and Brig. Gen. Douglas M. Stone, USMC Reserve, commanding general, Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command; President Jalal Talabani, Speaker of Parliament Mahmoud al-Mashhadani, and Prime Minister-designate Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Following a Visit With Former President Gerald R. Ford in Rancho Mirage, California

April 23, 2006

President Bush. It's such an honor to be with President and Mrs. Ford. The country has produced a lot of fine citizens, and there's no two finer people than these two. Thank you for your hospitality, sir.

Former President Ford. We solved all the problems, didn't we? [*Laughter*]

President Bush. That's right; we sure did.

Former President Ford. Well, thank you for stopping by, George.

President Bush. God bless you.

Former President Ford. Same to you, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:01 p.m. at President Ford's residence.

Remarks on Immigration Reform and a Question-and-Answer Session in Irvine, California

April 24, 2006

The President. Thank you all. Please be seated. Thanks for letting me come by. Tom, thanks for the invitation. What I thought I would do is share some thoughts with you on some issues that kind of, like, may be on the TV screen these days—[*laughter*—and then answer some of your

questions. I'm interested to know what's on your mind.

First, I've had a fabulous trip to your unbelievably beautiful State. It started off in northern California—Cisco; then I went to Stanford; then I went to Napa Valley. Then I rode my bicycle on Earth Day in